Environment & Ecology · GS - III

Examine the ecological and geopolitical significance of the Himalayan region in global climate negotiations. Why is a region-specific climate agenda important for mountain countries?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 11/11/2026	GS - III	Environment & Ecology

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Himalayan cryosphere, glacier retreat, glacial lake outburst floods, water security, biodiversity, climate vulnerability, climate finance, adaptation gaps, CBDR-RC, LDC coalition, regional cooperation.

Model Answer

Introduction

The Himalayas are a critical ecological system supporting freshwater security, biodiversity and livelihoods across South Asia. However, rising temperatures and changing precipitation patterns are intensifying climate risks in the region.

Ecological and Geopolitical Significance

- **Water security:** Himalayan glaciers and snowfields sustain major river systems, supporting agriculture and human settlements.
- **Disaster vulnerability:** Glacier retreat, glacial lake outburst floods, landslides and extreme rainfall threaten communities and infrastructure.
- **Biodiversity:** Diverse mountain habitats support endemic species and important ecosystem services.

- **Regional stability:** Climate-induced water stress and displacement can have cross-border implications.

Need for a Dedicated Climate Agenda

A region-specific agenda can improve scientific monitoring, early warning systems and access to adaptation finance. It can also highlight mountain-specific vulnerabilities that may receive inadequate attention within broader climate negotiations. Coalitions such as the Least Developed Countries group can strengthen collective bargaining.

Way Forward

Priorities should include transboundary data-sharing, climate-resilient infrastructure, ecosystem restoration and predictable international climate finance.

Conclusion

Recognising Himalayan vulnerabilities in global climate negotiations is essential for equitable climate action and long-term ecological and human security.

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